



# NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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## **Salvaging Fish out of Woods Lake is Permitted**

**Lake Shelbyville** – This year the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Lake Shelbyville will start rehabilitating Woods Lake, which is a 30 acre impoundment located adjacent to Lake Shelbyville approximately 5 miles south of Sullivan, IL on IL Route 32. According to Mike Mounce, Fisheries Biologist for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the fishery at Woods Lake has deteriorated tremendously over the last decade. The last time Woods Lake was drained and restocked was in 1981. Plans for Woods Lake include draining it, removing all fish, reshaping the bottom, adding fish habitat structure, replacing the drain tube in the dam, sinking pylons for a handicap accessible fishing pier and restocking the lake with Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, Black Crappie and Channel Catfish. After the fish are restocked, Woods Lake will be closed for a period of two years to allow the fish population to reach adequate size.

Fishermen are asked not to introduce any fish or dump bait buckets into the ponds around Lake Shelbyville including Woods Lake. While well intentioned, this practice often degrades the fisheries population quickly due to an improper balance of species.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has issued a fish salvage permit for Woods Lake that will be in effect during daylight hours beginning at sunrise on May 1, 2012, through sunset June 30, 2012. Any citizen of Illinois possessing a valid Illinois fishing license is authorized to salvage these fish according to provisions of regulations governing this sort of situation. Legal methods for taking any species of fish shall include pole and line, hand capture, seining, dip or cast netting, spearing, and bow and arrow device. There are no daily limits on any species of fish. No fish shall be cleaned at the site or dumped at the site. Fisherman in possession of fish from Woods Lake will be restricted from fishing Lake Shelbyville while the fish are in their possession, so as not to create confusion concerning possession limits. Any questions can be answered by calling Natural Resources Specialist Lee Mitchell at (217) 774-3951 ext. 7012 or Mike Mounce, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologist at 217-345-2420.

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**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – ST LOUIS DISTRICT – LAKE SHELBYVILLE**

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